

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /005 W
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P 131416Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3744

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4987

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN

SUBJ: HAWAIIAN AGRONOMICS--PROCON

REF: A. ABIDJAN 4911; B. STATE 136581

FOR AF/W

1. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAWADOGO PHONED ME YESTERDAY TO SAY THAT AMBASSADOR AHOUA WAS BRINGING NEW PRESIDENT OF HAWAIIAN AGRONOMICS AND PRESIDENT OF PROCON BACK TO ABIDJAN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15, TO PLEAD THEIR CASE FOR A CONTRACT ON THE PROPOSED FOURTH SUGAR REFINERY. HE SAID HA WAS NOW TAKING POSITION THAT IT WOULD NOT DO THE JOB WITHOUT PROCON.

2. SAWADOGO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHY AHOUA AND TWO COMPANIES WERE WASTING THEIR TIME AND MONEY TO MAKE THIS TRIP, SINCE HE HAD ALREADY INFORMED PROCON THAT ITS LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTING SUGAR REFINERIES MADE HIM DECIDE NOT TO CALL ON IT FOR THIS JOB. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO BE "BUSY ON ANOTHER TASK" AND, IN FACT, TEMPORARILY TURNING THE MINISTRY OVER TO ONE OF HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES NEXT WEEK(PROBABLY THE MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH). HE WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE AVAILABLE TO SEE ANY VISITORS. HE THEREFORE ASSUMED THAT HA AND PROCON OFFICERS WOULD BE RECEIVED AT STAFF LEVEL.

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3. I ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE OF ANY USE, IF THEY ASKED ME,

TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT FOR THEM WITH HIM. HE SAID FLATLY "NO".
AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, THE CASE IS CLOSED. HIS EARLIER
DISCOMFORT OVER HA(MY LETTER TO BISHOP OF MAY 28), TOGETHER WITH
THIS PECULIAR CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF HA IN THE MIDDLE OF THESE
NEGOTIATIONS, AND NOW HA'S DETERMINATION TO DO THE JOB ONLY IN
CONCERT WITH PROCON, HAD DEFINITELY TURNED HIM OFF.

4. NOTE THAT IT IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE HERE FOR ONE MINISTER
TO SUBSTITUTE FOR ANOTHER IN CASES OF ABSENCE FROM THE COUNTRY
OR OTHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. SMITH

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